

22

*The Case of the Ship Virgin, taken by the Spaniards  
in the West-Indies, in May 1673.*

THE Owners of the said Ship having long sought both in the *Havana*, *Spain*, and *England*, for satisfaction for their Losses, in *July 1677*. were heard before his Majesty in Council, and the King did then declare by Order of Council, the Government of *Spain* was alone chargable, and ought to be responsible for that Depredation: And did then referr it to Sir *Richard Lloyd*, and Sir *Thomas Exton*, to examine and report whether the Owners of the said Ship had in their proceedings followed the Methods prescribed by the Treaties between the two Crowns, and whether Letters of Marque or Reprizals did lye in this Case.

In *September 1677*. these Doctors report, that the said Ship *The Virgin* was taken in *May 1673*. by the *Spaniards*; that the Master in *July 1673*. made out his Loss to the Governour of *Jamaica*, who sent him to the *Havana* for satisfaction, but was denied.

In *November 1673* the Master comes to *London*, and Petitions the King and Council; in *February 1673*. he is referred to the Lords Committee for Trade; in *March* following, the Lords Committee for Trade order the Master to make out his Loss in the Admiralty: which he did, and exhibited the same exemplified to their Lordships.

In *July 1674*. he orders the Master to go to *Spain*; and by Order in Council declares, if satisfaction be not given in four months, his Majesty will grant Letters of Reprizals.

The Master solicites in *Spain* eleven months, but gets no satisfaction; then the King calls him home.

In *July 1675*. the Merchants and Owners Petition the King again for Reprizals; which was promised, if satisfaction was not speedily made.

Upon hearing the matter by Council, before the King and Lords of the Council, in *July 1677*. the King orders his Secretary to write to his Ambassador in *Spain*, that the King would forthwith grant Letters of Reprizals, if satisfaction were not made.

And upon the whole ~~matter~~<sup>matter</sup>, the said Doctors are of Opinion, that if his Majesty gave the *Spaniards* six<sup>1</sup> months longer to make satisfaction, if in that time they made no satisfaction, his Majesty might well grant Letters of Reprizals.

This is three years since, and no satisfaction made as yet.

In *March 1677*. upon Petition his Majesty ordered, that the Ship *Virgin* should be included in the Treaty then under consideration, so as to receive satisfaction.

His Majesty hath lately declared to the Parliament, that he hath finished the Treaty with *Spain*; whereupon the Owners again Petitioned his Majesty for satisfaction: whereupon his Majesty the 17<sup>th</sup>. of *November* last, was pleased to referr them to the Lords Committee for Trade and Plantations, to enquire into the whole state of the Case, and to report to his Majesty in Council, how their Lordships find the same; together with their Opinions, what their Lordships think best for his Majesty to do therein, for the Petitioners speedy satisfaction.